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ABSTRACT

Information on the participation of black students in higher education during the 1970s is presented, with additional considerations discussed: demographic changes among black youth in the 1970s, trends in majors and degree completion, enrollment by type of institution, and school location. Findings for the early 1970s include the following: the large increase in black college enrollment coincided with the expansion in both federal legislation and policies aimed at reducing barriers for minorities and low-income students; by 1975, the percent of black high school graduates who enrolled in college was the same as that for whites (although the high school graduation rates were still lower for blacks than for whites); and the increase in black college enrollment took place at the undergraduate level. Among the findings for the last half of the 1970s are: the number of blacks who enrolled in college remained about the same, despite an almost 20 percent increase in the number of blacks eligible for college; and the number and proportion of degrees awarded to blacks remained about the same at the bachelor's, doctor's, and first-professional level, while there were substantial declines at the master's level. Information on the sources of the data is appended. (SW)

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Special report

National Center for Education Statistics

U.S. Department of Education
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Participation of Black Students in Higher Education: A Statistical Profile from 1970-71 to 1980-81

Introduction

This report describes the participation of black students in higher education during the 1970's. Most of the data in this report came from Federal government surveys in which students and degree recipients are identified by race. The surveys cover virtually all colleges and universities in the United States.

After the highlights, there is a short discussion of the demographic changes among black youth in the 1970's, followed by information on enrollment and, more importantly, on degree completions.

Highlights

- During the first half of the 1970's:
  - the large increase in black enrollment coincided with the expansion in both Federal legislation and Federal policies aimed at reducing barriers to higher education for minorities and low-income students.
  - by 1975, the percent of black high school graduates who enrolled in college was the same as that for whites (although high school graduation rates were still lower for blacks than whites).
  - the increase in black college enrollment took place at the undergraduate level. Blacks grew to 10 percent of full-time undergraduates, about the same proportion as they comprised of all high school graduates 18 to 24 years old.
  - black enrollment at the post-baccalaureate level did not experience an equivalent upsurge. In fact, by 1976 there was a smaller proportion of blacks in graduate and first-professional schools than there had been in the early 1970's.

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- During the last half of the 1970's:
  - black participation in higher education stabilized in most areas.
  - the number of blacks who enrolled in college remained about the same, in spite of the fact that the number of black youth eligible for college increased by almost 20 percent.
  - the number and proportion of degrees awarded to blacks remained about the same at the bachelor's, doctor's, and first-professional levels, while there were substantial declines at the master's level.
  - the number of blacks receiving master's degrees declined 16 percent, four times greater than the decline for non-blacks.
  - while total degree awards to blacks did not change substantially (except at the master's degree level), in certain areas there were significant shifts:
    - -- between black women, who had considerable increases at all levels except the master's, and black men, who declined at all levels.
    - -- between discipline divisions--for example, education was replaced by business and management as the most popular discipline for black bachelor's degree recipients in 1981. The ranking of the three most popular disciplines for bachelors's degree recipients were the same for blacks and non-blacks for the first time: business and management, education, and social sciences.
- Although the traditionally black institutions (TBI's) did not absorb most of the increase in black enrollment during the decade of the 1970's, they still play an important role in graduating black students. In 1981:
  - TBI's still graduated over half of the black bachelor's degree recipients in the 20 States where these institutions are located.
  - TBI's graduated one-third of the black master's and first-professional degree recipients in these States.
- In 1981, in non-traditionally black institutions:
  - blacks comprised less than 5 percent of degree recipients at all degree levels.
  - private institutions awarded a higher percent of their degrees to blacks than did public institutions.

Demographic Changes Among Black Youth

In the mid-1960's, Congress passed legislation aimed at reducing barriers to higher education for minorities, and in the early 1970's established major financial aid programs for low-income students. These Federal policies and programs facilitated the access of blacks to higher education.[1] In conjunction with reduced barriers and expanded opportunities in higher education for blacks, demographic changes among black youth during the 1970's produced an increasing pool of persons eligible to attend college. These demographic changes contributed to the phenomenal growth in black college enrollment during the early 1970's, but after 1975, an increasing pool of eligible black youth did not translate into a corresponding increase in college enrollment.

In order to estimate the growth in the "college-age" population, this study examines the population between the ages of 18 and 24, from which the majority of students are drawn.[2] The black population in this age group increased by almost a million from 1970 to 1980, with the largest share of this increase occurring in the first half of the decade. The proportion of this black population who became eligible for college by completing high school increased

Year	Blacks aged 18-24 (in thousands)	Black high school graduates 18-24	
		Number (in thousands)	Percent of all blacks 18-24
1970	2,692	1,602	60
1975	3,213	2,081	65
1980	3,555	2,479	70

Note: The percent of whites 18-24 who were high school graduates was 81 percent in 1970 and 83 percent in 1975 and 1980.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, School Enrollment - Social and Economic Characteristics of Students, Series P-20, Nos. 222, 303, and 362.

from 60 percent to 70 percent from 1970 to 1980; however, even with the increase in high school graduation rates among black youth, their rate was still much lower than that for white youth, which increased from 81 to 83 percent in the same period.

[1]For comprehensive policy discussions of black participation in higher education, see: Institute for the Study of Educational Policy, Equal Educational Opportunity status reports (Washington, D.C.: Howard University Press, 1976, 1978, and 1980).

[2]In 1970, about three-fourths of all black college students were between 18 and 24 years old; in 1980, about two-thirds of all black college students were in this age group. See: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, School Enrollment - Social and Economic Characteristics of Students: October 1970, and October 1980, Series P-20, Nos. 222 and 362.

The proportion of black high school graduates 18 to 24 who were enrolled in college increased from 26 percent in 1970 to 32 percent in 1975, reaching the same level as that for whites. In 1980, however, the percent of blacks 18 to 24 who were enrolled in college declined to 28 percent, while the rate for whites remained at 32 percent.

Year	Blacks aged 18-24 enrolled in college	
	Number	Percent of all black high school graduates 18-24
1970	416,000	26
1975	665,000	32
1980	688,000	28

Note: The percent of white high school graduates 18-24 enrolled in college remained at 32 percent in 1970, 1975, and 1980.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, School Enrollment - Social and Economic Characteristics of Students, Series P-20, Nos. 222, 303, and 362.

The number of black 18- to 24-year-olds enrolled in college was about the same in 1975 as in 1980. While the number of black youth 18-24 who graduated from high school increased 19 percent, the number enrolled in college increased only 3 percent from 1975 to 1980 (chart 1).

Among white 18- to 24-year-olds, the small percentage increase in high school graduates was similar to the increase in college enrollment, unlike the situation for blacks. Further research is needed to determine why the increase in black youth eligible for college was not accompanied by a corresponding percentage increase in college enrollment in the late 1970's.

Enrollment of Black Students in College During the 1970's

Data obtained from individuals by the Bureau of the Census show that the enrollment of black students (aged 14 to 34) in higher education increased considerably from 1970 to 1976 (except for a drop in 1973), and then stabilized from 1976 to 1980 (chart 2).

This general trend in black enrollment during the 1970's was also documented in the more detailed Federal government surveys of colleges. In 1968, the Office for Civil Rights began biennial surveys of enrollment by race in all institutions of higher education.[3] Data from these surveys provide detailed

[3]These biennial surveys are the source of enrollment data cited hereafter in this report. See appendix for more information.

Chart 1.-- Demographic changes in the black and white populations aged 18-24: 1970, 1975, and 1980

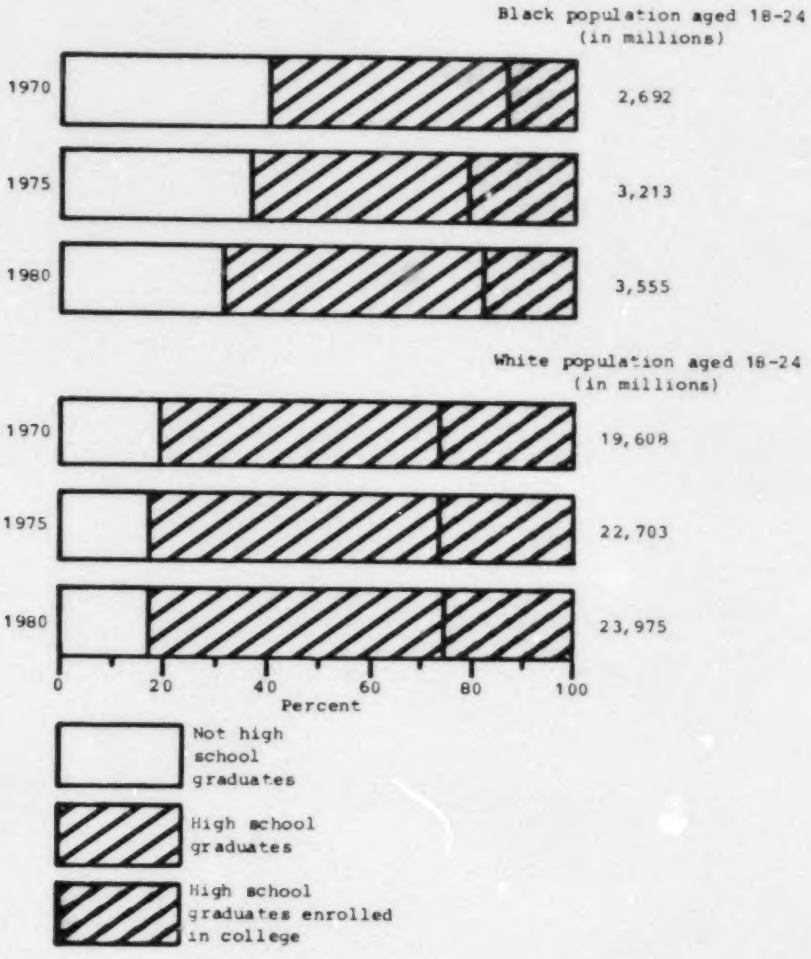
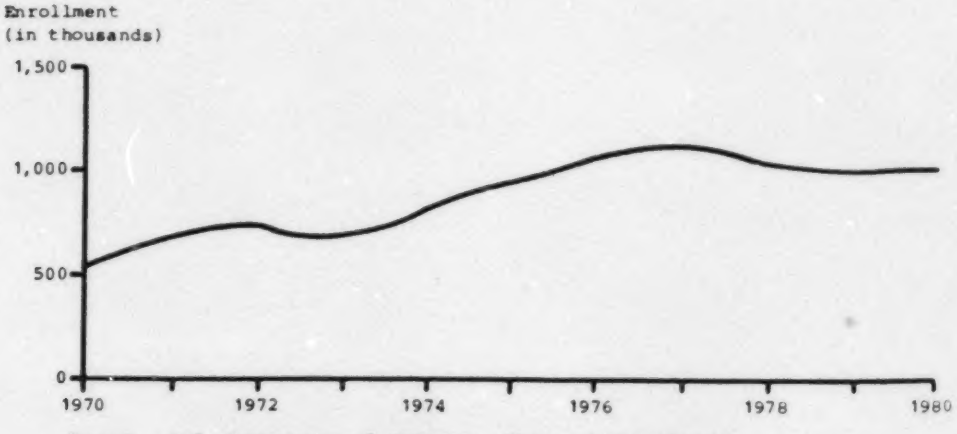


Chart 2.-- College enrollment of blacks aged 14 to 34: 1970 to 1980



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, School Enrollment -- Social and Economic Characteristics of Students: October 1980, Series P-20, No. 362, p.5.

information on the types of institutions where black students were enrolled, the level of their enrollment, and their attendance status. In 1970, colleges reported 350,000 black students enrolled full-time and seeking a degree. This number grew dramatically until 1976, when there were almost 640,000 black full-time students. By 1980, there were 660,000 black full-time students, an increase of only 3 percent over 1976.

Data on part-time and unclassified students (i.e., not candidates for a degree) were not published until 1974. In 1976, the number of black part-time and unclassified students reported was about 395,000; by 1980, 450,000 were in these categories, an increase of 14 percent. Because of the lack of data on part-time students in the early 1970's, trend data for the decade will be limited to full-time black students who were candidates for a degree. Enrollment will be examined by level (undergraduate, graduate, and first-professional) and by types of institutions.

Level of Enrollment

Undergraduate enrollment

The number of black undergraduates enrolled full-time nearly doubled between 1970 and 1980; however, most of the growth occurred between 1970 and 1976 (table 1).

Table 1.-- Black full-time undergraduate enrollment: Even years, 1970 to 1980

Year	Full-time undergraduate students*	
	Black students	Blacks as a percent of all students
1970	330,700	6.8
1972	460,800	8.3
1974	505,600	9.0
1976	604,700	10.3
1978	600,900	10.4
1980	625,200	10.2

* Excludes unclassified students (i.e., not candidates for a degree).
Note: Percents were calculated with actual numbers, not rounded numbers.

Blacks as a percent of all full-time undergraduates increased from 6.8 in 1970 to 10.3 in 1976 and have not changed substantially since. In order to provide a context for black representation in higher education, this report uses black high school graduates aged 18 to 24 as an approximation of the black college-eligible population. Among all high school graduates 18 to 24, blacks accounted for 9.0 percent in 1970, 10.3 percent in 1975, and 10.9 percent in 1980. While blacks were underrepresented among full-time undergraduates in 1970, they reached proportional representation in 1975. In 1980, blacks comprised 10.2 percent of full-time undergraduates, still less than the 10.9 percent that blacks comprised of all high school graduates aged 18 to 24.

Graduate enrollment

At the graduate level, the number of black full-time students has remained between 21,000 and 22,100 since 1972.[4] The representation of blacks among all full-time graduate students increased from 5.3 percent in 1972 to 5.5 percent in 1974, and then remained around 5.0 percent from 1976 until 1980 (table 2).

Table 2.-- Black full-time graduate enrollment: Even years, 1972 to 1980

Year	Full-time graduate students*	
	Black students	Blacks as a percent of all students
1972	21,500	5.3
1974	22,100	5.5
1976	22,100	5.1
1978	21,000	4.9
1980	22,100	5.0

* Excludes unclassified students (i.e., not candidates for a degree).
Note: Data not available for 1970. Percents were calculated with actual numbers, not rounded numbers.

First-professional enrollment

From 1972 to 1980, the number of black full-time first-professional students in the United States increased from 8,700 to 11,500. However, blacks as a proportion of all first-professional students was lower in the last half of the decade than in the first half. In 1974, blacks comprised 4.9 percent of all full-time first-professional students; in 1980, blacks comprised 4.6 percent (table 3).

Data by first-professional fields show large increases in the number and percent of black students enrolled in medical, dental and law schools from 1970 to 1974. After that, the number of blacks in these professional schools increased only slightly until 1980, while blacks as a proportion of all students in each of these fields was lower in 1980 than in 1974 (table 3).

[4]Data on part-time enrollment in graduate programs is especially important since part-time graduate students usually outnumber full-time graduate students. The number of black part-time graduate students declined from 43,300 in 1976 to 37,800 in 1980. Blacks as a percent of all part-time graduate students also declined -- from 6.6 percent in 1976 to 5.8 percent in 1980.

Table 3.-- Black full-time first-professional enrollment, by field of study: Even years, 1970 to 1980

Field of study and year	Full-time first-professional students	
	Black students	Blacks as a percent of all students
Total:		
1970	-	-
1972	8,700	4.8
1974	9,200	4.9
1976	10,000	4.6
1978	10,300	4.4
1980	11,500	4.6
Law:		
1970	2,500	3.9
1972	-	-
1974	3,900	4.8
1976	4,400	4.6
1978	4,500	4.5
1980	4,800	4.7
Medical:		
1970	1,800	4.1
1972	-	-
1974	3,000	6.1
1976	3,400	6.0
1978	3,500	5.3
1980	3,900	5.5
Dental:		
1970	570	3.8
1972	-	-
1974	900	4.9
1976	800	4.0
1978	900	4.2
1980	1,000	4.4
All others:*		
1970	-	-
1972	-	-
1974	1,400	3.5
1976	1,400	3.0
1978	1,400	3.2
1980	1,800	3.3

- Data not collected on the survey form that year.

* Includes theology, optometry, osteopathic medicine, pharmacy, podiatry, veterinary medicine, and chiropractic medicine. Enrollment data is not collected on these fields individually. For information on each of these fields, see section of this report on degrees.

Note: Details may not add to totals because of rounding. Percents were calculated with actual numbers, not rounded numbers.

Enrollment by Types of Institutions

Of the more than 1 million black college students in 1980, 42 percent were enrolled in 2-year colleges.[5] Even though many of these black students attended part-time or were not seeking a degree, the 2-year colleges also enrolled a significant proportion of the black full-time undergraduate students seeking a degree (34 percent). This was 8 percentage points higher than the proportion of non-black full-time undergraduates who were enrolled in 2-year colleges (26 percent).

Three-fourths of black full-time students were enrolled in public institutions, a proportion similar to that for other students. Blacks comprised 10.1 percent of all full-time students in public institutions, down from 10.3 percent in 1976; the number of black full-time students remained about the same from 1976 to 1980, while the number of white students increased slightly.

In private institutions, blacks comprised 9.8 percent of all full-time students, up from 9.4 percent in 1976. The number of black full-time students increased considerably from 1976 to 1980, almost twice the percentage increase for white full-time students. In fact, private institutions accounted for the entire 20,000 increase in total black full-time enrollment from 1976 to 1980 (unpublished tabulations).

In 1980, two-thirds of all black college students were enrolled in colleges whose student bodies were predominantly white.[6] Twenty-seven percent of black college students were enrolled in predominantly black institutions[7], and another 7 percent attended colleges where no one racial group comprised over half of the student body.

About 1 in 5 black college students in the United States now attend the traditionally black institutions of higher education (TBI's). These 102 schools were founded to educate blacks when segregation was legal (before the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision Brown v. Board of Education), and it is estimated that, until the early 1970's, they enrolled over half of black college students in the States where they are located (chart 3). These States will be referred to hereafter as "TBI States" for simplicity.

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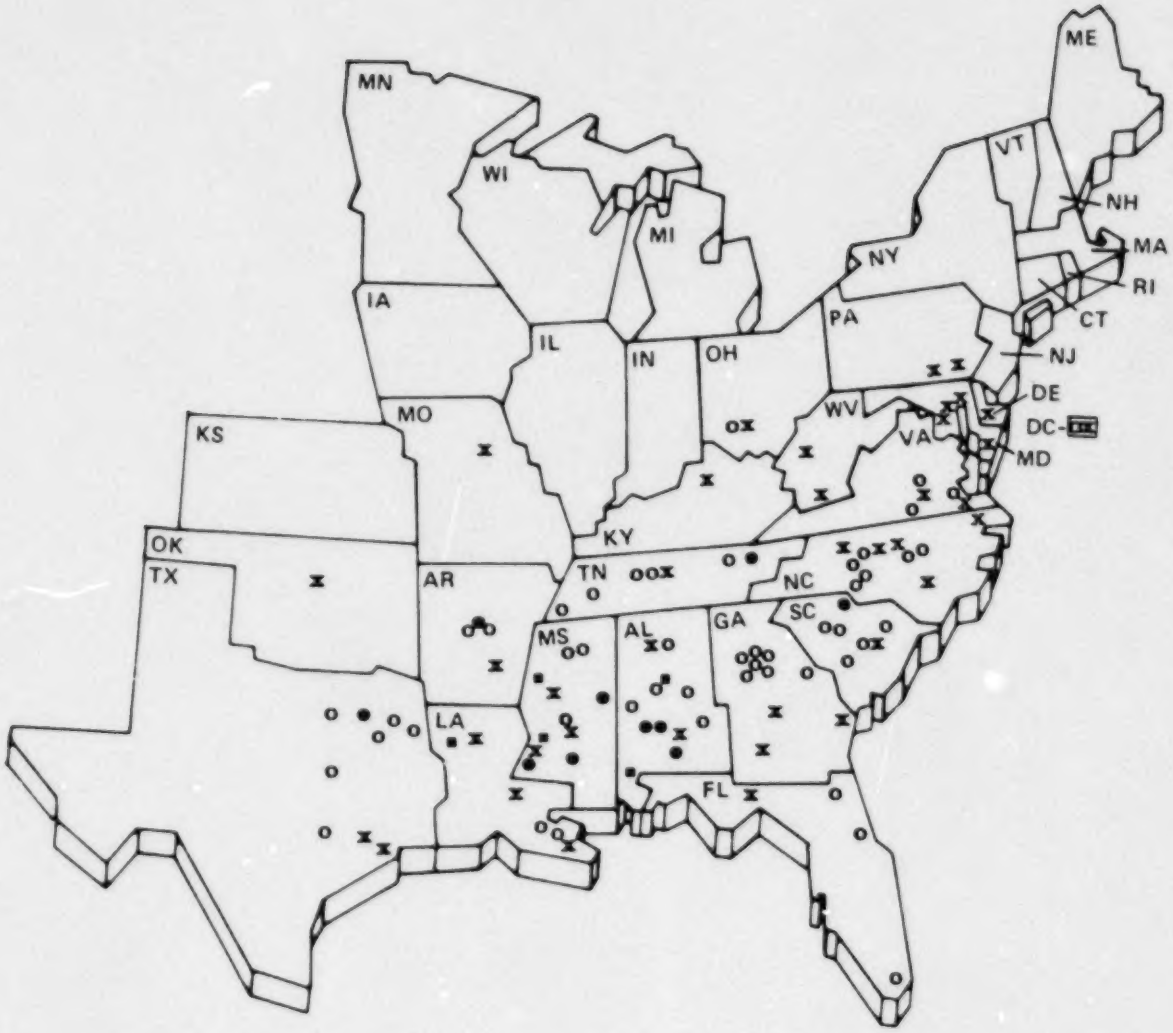
[5]This proportion has not changed since 1976, the first year this type of data was available. If the reader is interested in a thorough discussion on minorities in 2-year colleges, see: Michael A. Olivas, The Dilemma of Access (Washington, D.C.: Howard University Press, 1979).

[6]Defined here as those in which white students comprised over 50 percent of the total student body.

[7]For information on the 166 predominantly black colleges in 1980, see: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, "Update on Black College Students and Black Colleges: 1980-81," Bulletin 81-361, September 1981. Of the 102 traditionally black institutions, 98 were predominantly black in 1980.

Chart 3.-- Location of TBI's in the United States: 1982



Key:

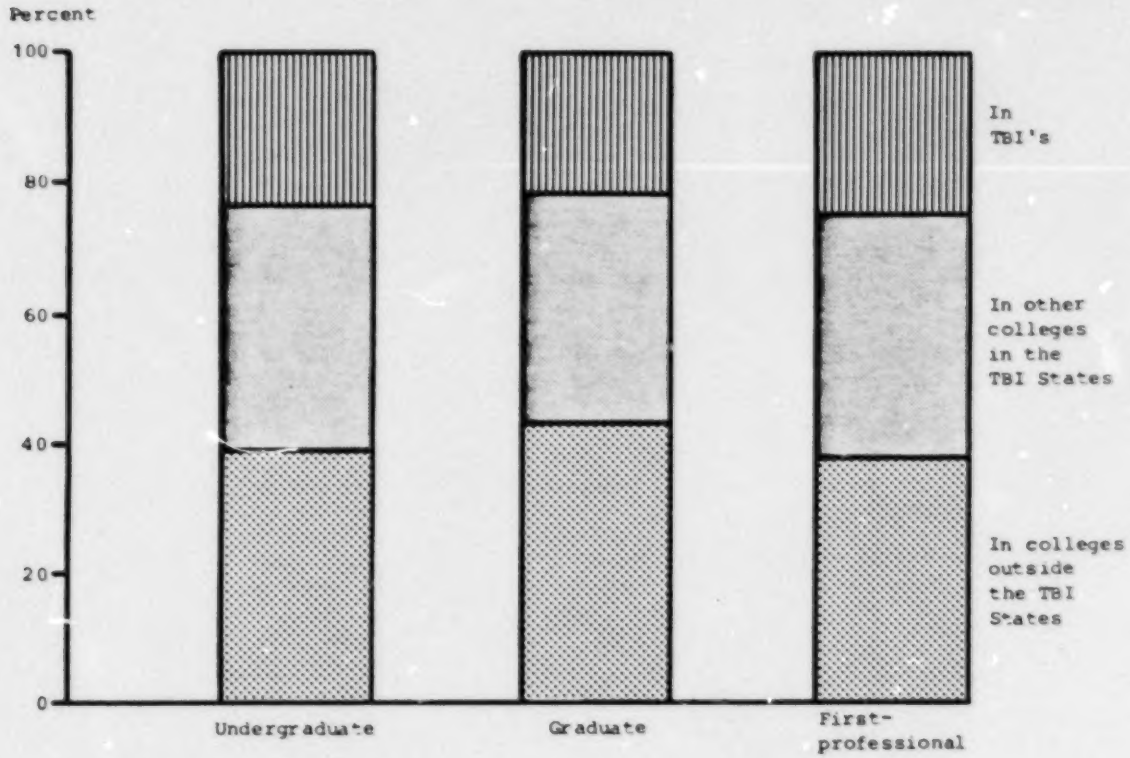
- Public 4-year TBI's (38)
- Public 2-year TBI's (5)

- Private 4-year TBI's (49)
- Private 2-year TBI's (10)

11

Although the number of black students attending TBI's increased during the early 1970's, the number of black students attending other institutions increased much more.[8] The proportion of black full-time students in the TBI States who were enrolled in the TBI's declined to 40 percent by 1976, and then to 38 percent in 1980.[9] By 1980, the TBI's enrolled about 4 out of 10 black full-time students in the TBI States at all levels - undergraduate, graduate, and first-professional. As a proportion of all black full-time students nationally, TBI's enrolled almost a fourth at each level (chart 4).

Chart 4.-- Distribution of black full-time students by level, in TBI's, other colleges inside TBI States, and colleges outside the TBI States: 1980



[8]It should be noted that the majority of black students enrolled in non-TBI's were in 2-year colleges (51 percent in 1980). Among black first-time freshmen in non-TBI's, two-thirds were enrolled in 2-year colleges in 1980.

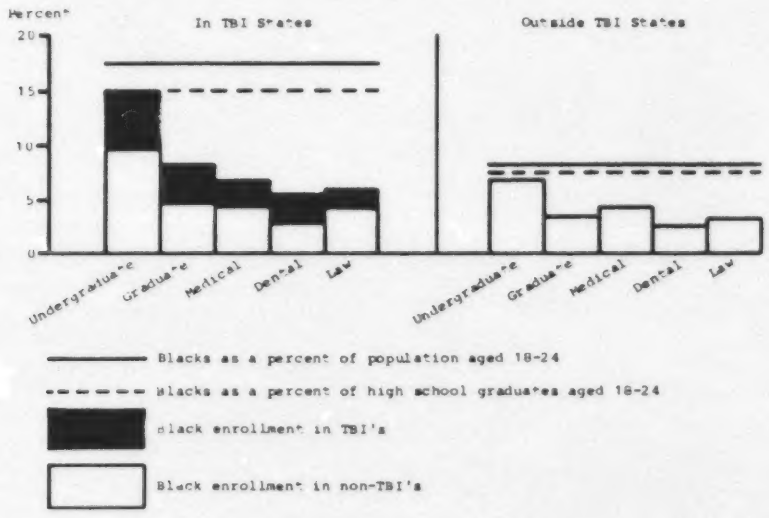
[9]The TBI's are enrolling an increasing proportion of black students at certain levels, however. For example, the proportion of black first-time freshmen in the TBI States who enrolled in TBI's increased slightly -- from 29 percent in 1978 to 31 percent in 1980. At the graduate level, the proportion of black full-time students in the TBI States who enrolled in TBI's increased from 28 percent in 1976 to 38 percent in 1980.

The largest increases in black enrollment occurred during the early 1970's in non-TBI's which were once a part of segregated higher education systems. Until 1976, these non-TBI's in the TBI States increased their black enrollment both in terms of numbers and as a percent of total enrollment (table 4). Since 1976, black undergraduate enrollment has remained stable and graduate enrollment has declined in these institutions[10]; only in the first-professional schools did black enrollment increase slightly.

Outside the TBI States, the number of black full-time students remained about the same from 1976 to 1980 in undergraduate, graduate and first-professional schools. However, as a percent of all students, black representation declined in the graduate and the first-professional schools outside the TBI States (table 4).

In the TBI and non-TBI States, were blacks enrolled in college in proportions similar to the proportions they comprised of high school graduates aged 18 to 24? Blacks comprised about 15 percent of all high school graduates 18 to 24 in the TBI States and about 7 percent of all high school graduates in the non-TBI States.[11] Among full-time undergraduates, blacks were enrolled in almost the same proportions as they comprised of all high school graduates 18 to 24, both inside and outside the States where TBI's are located. In graduate and first-professional schools, blacks were still greatly underrepresented in both regions in 1980 (chart 5).

Chart 5.-- Black representation among full-time students in institutions inside and outside the TBI States, by enrollment level: 1980



[10]However, if the TBI's are included, total black representation in graduate schools in the TBI States increased slightly, because of the growth of black full-time graduate enrollment in the TBI's (from about 3,400 to 4,800 from 1976 to 1980).

[11]U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, unpublished tabulations from the Survey of Income and Education, conducted by the Bureau of the Census in spring 1976. This is the latest year for which reliable State data for 18-24-year-olds were available; this 1976 data would slightly underestimate blacks among the population and among high school graduates (18-24) in 1980.

Table 4.-- Black representation in non-traditionally black institutions (non-TBI's) by level, inside and outside the States where TBI's are located: Even years, 1970 to 1980

Level and year	Black full-time students* in non-TBI's			
	In TBI States		Outside TBI States	
	Number	Blacks as a percent of all students	Number	Blacks as a percent of all students
Undergraduate				
1970	79,950	4.3	117,380	4.1
1972	128,020	6.0	188,070	5.8
1974	157,880	7.5	212,970	6.3
1976	216,380	9.5	239,280	7.0
1978	214,800	9.4	240,540	7.2
1980	233,990	9.6	246,600	6.9
Graduate				
1970	-	-	-	-
1972	7,070	4.6	10,370	4.1
1974	7,070	4.9	10,540	4.2
1976	8,690	5.4	9,990	3.8
1978	8,340	5.3	9,300	3.6
1980	7,880	4.8	9,470	3.5
First-professional				
Medical				
1970	310	1.9	850	3.4
1972	-	-	-	-
1974	980	4.5	1,380	5.1
1976	1,180	4.5	1,590	5.2
1978	1,250	4.1	1,470	4.3
1980	1,480	4.6	1,580	4.3
Dental				
1970	30	**	130	1.5
1972	-	-	-	-
1974	170	2.1	260	2.9
1976	210	2.2	250	2.5
1978	250	2.5	260	2.4
1980	280	2.6	250	2.2
Law				
1970	550	2.2	1,280	3.5
1972	-	-	-	-
1974	1,230	3.5	1,880	4.3
1976	1,580	4.0	2,090	3.7
1978	1,610	4.1	2,010	3.4
1980	1,730	4.2	1,950	3.3

* Excludes unclassified students.
** Less than 0.05 percent.
- Data not collected on the survey form in this year.
Note: Percents were calculated with actual numbers, not rounded numbers.

Trends in Degrees Earned by Black Students

It is difficult to determine the extent to which access translates into completion of a degree program for black college students. The National Longitudinal Study of the High School Class of 1972 indicated college graduation rates were lower for blacks than for whites. Among college entrants in academic programs in fall 1972, 30 percent of blacks and 41 percent of whites had obtained a bachelor's degree 4 years later.[12]

Federal surveys that obtained degree data by race began in the 1975-76 academic year.[13] Data for 1976 and 1981 show that the total number of degrees (bachelor's and higher) awarded to blacks by institutions of higher education declined slightly in that period (table 5). Although the number of degree awards to blacks increased slightly at the baccalaureate, doctoral, and first-professional levels, these small increases were outweighed by the large decrease in the number of master's degrees awarded to blacks.

Table 5.-- Degree awards to blacks, by level: 1976 and 1981

Degree level*	1976		1981	
	Awards to blacks	Blacks as a percent of all recipients	Awards to blacks	Blacks as a percent of all recipients
Total	83,400	6.3	82,000	6.2
Bachelor's	59,100	6.4	60,700	6.5
Master's	20,300	6.6	17,100	5.8
Doctor's	1,200	3.6	1,300	3.9
First-professional	2,700	4.3	2,900	4.1

* This report does not discuss associate degrees and awards based on less than 4 years of work beyond high school; for interested readers, however, trend data are presented in appendix table E.

Note: Details may not add to total because of rounding. Percents were calculated with actual numbers, not rounded numbers.

The decline in the number of black master's degree recipients between 1976 and 1981 was 16 percent, 4 times larger than the decline in the number of master's degrees awarded to non-blacks (4 percent). This is reflected in the declining proportion of blacks among all master's degree recipients (table 5). In 1976, blacks comprised 6.6 percent of all master's degree recipients; in 1981, blacks comprised 5.8 percent of the total.[14]

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[12] Bruce Eckland and Joseph Wisenbaker, National Longitudinal Study: A Capsule Description of Young Adults Four and One-Half Years After High School (Washington, D.C.: National Center for Education Statistics, 1979), p. 7.

[13] These surveys are the source of degree data cited hereafter in this study; see appendix for more information. Academic years are referred to by the year in which they end; academic year 1975-76 is referred to as 1976.

[14] For a discussion of some of the possible reasons for this, see: U.S. Department of Education, National Advisory Committee on Black Higher Education and Black Colleges and Universities, "A Losing Battle: The Decline in Black Participation in Graduate and Professional Education," October 1980.

While no substantial changes occurred in the total number of degrees earned by blacks (except at the master's level), this overall stability masked shifts in certain areas of degree awards to blacks between 1976 and 1981. There were significant shifts in degree awards between black men and women, between discipline divisions, and between institutions inside and outside the South. These are discussed next.

Degree awards to black men declined at every degree level from 1976 to 1981 (table 6). The number of black women increased at all levels, except the master's level; at this level, the decline for black women (12 percent) was about half that for black men (21 percent).

Table 6.-- Percent change in degrees awarded to blacks and whites, by degree level and sex: 1976 to 1981

Degree level	Blacks			Whites
	1976	1981	Percent change 1976 to 1981	Percent change 1976 to 1981
Bachelor's				
Men	25,600	24,500	-4	-9
Women	33,500	36,200	+8	+9
Master's				
Men	7,800	6,200	-21	-17
Women	12,500	11,000	-12	+1
Doctor's				
Men	800	700	-10	-17
Women	400	600	+29	+31
First-professional				
Men	2,000	1,800	-12	*
Women	700	1,200	+71	+99

* Less than 0.5 percent.

Note: Numbers are rounded to hundreds; however, percent change was calculated with actual numbers.

These general trends also occurred to varying degrees among whites, with the exception that master's degree awards to white women and first-professional degree awards to white men did not decline from 1976 to 1981 as they did for their black counterparts.

Changes in Degree Awards, by Discipline Division

Bachelor's degrees

Between 1976 and 1981, blacks increased their proportional representation among bachelor's degree recipients in 11 of the 24 discipline divisions. In order, by the percent of blacks among all recipients, these disciplines were:

Selected discipline divisions	Blacks as a percent of all bachelor's degree recipients	
	1976	1981
Public affairs and services	10.0	13.4
Psychology	6.5	8.1
Communications	6.0	7.7
Interdisciplinary studies	5.6	6.6
Health professions	5.1	5.7
Biological sciences	4.3	5.3
Fine and applied arts	4.1	4.6
Physical sciences	3.0	3.8
Engineering	3.0	3.3
Architecture and environmental design	2.8	3.2
Agriculture and natural resources	1.4	1.7

In the following six disciplines, black representation among bachelor's degree recipients declined:

Selected discipline divisions	Blacks as a percent of all bachelor's degree recipients	
	1976	1981
Education	9.2	8.8
Social sciences	8.7	8.1
Library science	9.3	8.0
Computer and information sciences	5.8	5.2
Foreign languages	3.5	2.8
Area studies	3.5	2.6

In the rest of the disciplines, the percent black of all degree recipients remained about the same. In one of these disciplines, business and management, blacks remained at 6.7 percent of the bachelor's degree recipients even though the number of black recipients increased from 9,490 to 13,400 from 1976 to 1981.

(See appendix for actual numbers for all disciplines.) In 1981, business and management became the most popular discipline among all black bachelor's degree recipients in the U.S., ranking above education and the social sciences.

Most popular discipline divisions	Percent of all black bachelor's degree recipients	
	1976	1981
Business and management	16	22
Education	24	16
Social sciences	19	13

In 1981, for the first time, the ranking of the three most chosen disciplines for bachelor's degrees was the same for blacks as for non-blacks.

Master's degrees

Between 1976 and 1981, the representation of blacks among all master's degree recipients declined in all but seven discipline divisions. In psychology, blacks remained at 6.5 percent of all recipients; in the following six disciplines, the percent of black recipients increased.

Selected discipline divisions	Blacks as a percent of all master's degree recipients	
	1976	1981
Communications	5.5	6.0
Health professions	5.0	5.4
Interdisciplinary studies	3.0	5.1
Home economics	4.9	5.1
Business and management	3.7	4.1
Engineering	1.5	1.6

For the extent of decline in the proportions of black master's degree recipients in the other disciplines, see the appendix.

Business/management and public affairs/services increased their ranking among all black master's degree recipients between 1976 and 1981. Education declined significantly, yet still represented half of all master's degrees awarded to blacks in 1981.

Most popular discipline divisions	Percent of all black master's degree recipients	
	1976	1981
Education	61	50
Business and management	8	14
Public affairs and services	8	11

Doctor's degrees

Black doctoral recipients increased their representation in all but five disciplines between 1976 and 1981. The disciplines that experienced declines in the proportion of black recipients were:

Selected discipline divisions	Blacks as a percent of all doctor's degree recipients	
	1976	1981
Education	8.6	7.8
Area studies	5.1	3.8
Fine and applied arts	3.3	2.6
Agriculture and natural resources	2.0	1.4
Physical sciences	1.2	1.0

Education discipline at all levels

Between 1976 and 1981, the education discipline experienced declines, both in terms of the number of black degree recipients and the percentage representation of blacks, at all levels--bachelor's, master's, and doctor's. From 1976 to 1979, the decline among black graduates was similar to that experienced in the education discipline in general; from 1979 to 1981, however, the decline among blacks was greater and their proportional representation among education degree recipients decreased.

First-professional degrees

Between 1976 and 1981, black representation increased in five first-professional disciplines and decreased in the other five. Those disciplines with increases in the percent of recipients who were black were:

Selected discipline divisions	Blacks as a percent of all first-professional degree recipients	
	1976	1981
Theological profession	3.9	4.4
Dentistry	3.3	3.6
Podiatry	0.7	3.4
Pharmacy	1.4	3.0
Veterinary medicine	1.2	1.9

Those disciplines with decreases in the proportional representation of blacks were:

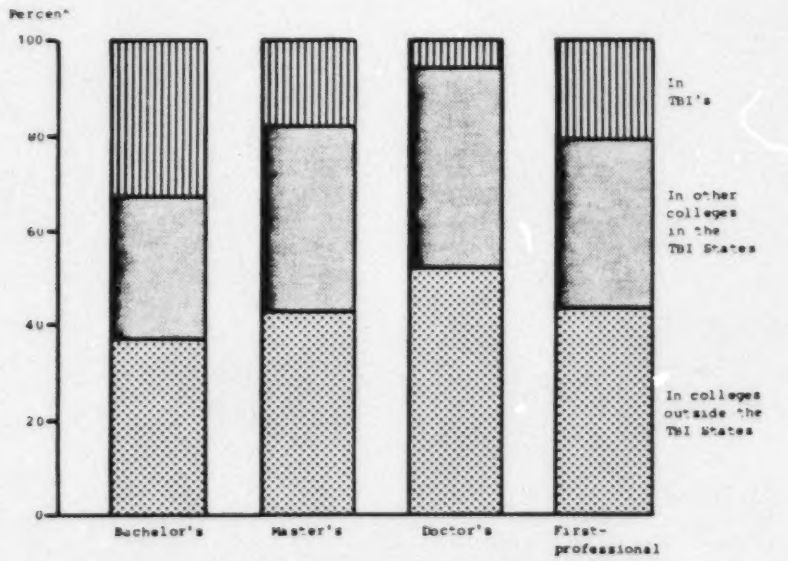
Selected discipline divisions	Blacks as a percent of all first-professional degree recipients	
	1976	1981
Medicine	5.3	5.0
Law	4.7	4.3
Osteopathic medicine	1.5	1.4
Optometry	1.4	0.8
Chiropractic medicine	1.6	0.6

The number and percent of black degree recipients in these disciplines, except law and medicine, were small (see the appendix tables for the actual numbers).

Degrees Awarded Inside and Outside the TBI States

To examine the changes in degree awards to blacks by different types of institutions, this report divides institutions into those located inside and those located outside the TBI States (the 20 States where the TBI's are located). Within the TBI States, data is separated for the traditionally black institutions and the non-traditionally black institutions in order to show the changing roles of each segment in graduating black students. To give a general idea of the relative importance of these groups of institutions, chart 6 displays the distribution of black degree recipients by level among the TBI's, the other colleges in the TBI States, and the colleges outside the TBI States.

Chart 6.-- Distributions of black degree recipients, by level, in TBI's, other colleges in the TBI States, and colleges outside the TBI States: 1981



The majority of black degree recipients at each level, except doctoral, earned their degrees in the TBI States in 1981, primarily because of the TBI's, which play a significant role in producing black graduates (chart 6).

Between 1976 and 1981, the number of degrees awarded by the TBI's to black students decreased at the bachelor's level (from 22,200 to 19,400) and at the master's level (from 4,560 to 3,170). The number of black recipients increased slightly at the doctor's level (50 to 70) and the first-professional level (from 540 to 620). But, even with the decline at the bachelor's level, the TBI's still awarded over half of the bachelor's degrees earned by blacks in the TBI States in 1981.[15] Although the number of black master's degree recipients in TBI's has declined in the last 5 years, the TBI's still graduated a third of the black master's degree recipients in the TBI States in 1981. At the first-professional level, TBI's awarded 38 percent of all degrees awarded to blacks in these States (chart 6).

The increases in the number and percent of black degree recipients from 1976 to 1981 occurred primarily in the non-TBI's in the TBI States. These institutions awarded almost 4,000 more black bachelor's degree recipients and 200 more black first-professionals in 1981 than in 1976 (table 7). However, at the master's and doctor's levels, there were slight increases from 1976 to 1979 and then slight declines to 1981 in both the number and percent of black recipients in these States.

Table 7.-- Blacks as a percent of all degree recipients, by level, in the non-TBI's inside and outside the TBI States: 1976, 1979, and 1981

Degree level	Black degree recipients in non-TBI's			
	Inside TBI States		Outside TBI States	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Bachelor's				
1976	14,820	4.0	22,070	4.2
1979	17,030	4.6	22,530	4.3
1981	18,740	5.0	22,520	4.2
Master's				
1976	7,010	6.0	8,770	4.7
1979	7,280	6.3	8,160	4.6
1981	6,590	5.8	7,380	4.2
Doctor's				
1976	520	4.2	640	3.0
1979	600	4.8	620	3.1
1981	540	4.5	650	3.1
First-professional				
1976	810	3.0	1,340	3.9
1979	980	3.4	1,260	3.2
1981	1,020	3.4	1,290	3.2

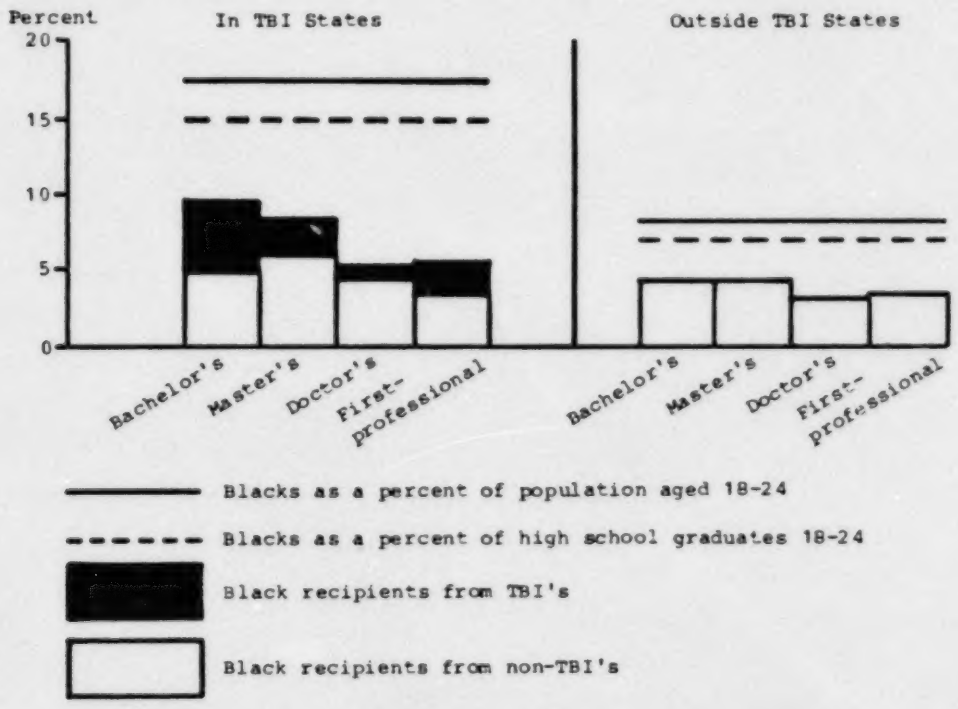
Note: Percents were calculated with actual numbers, not rounded numbers.

[15] In 1981, the 83 TBI's that granted bachelor's degrees produced more black baccalaureates than the 673 non-TBI's in the TBI States in many disciplines, including: engineering, mathematics, computer science, business and management, physical sciences and biological sciences.

In institutions outside of the TBI States, the number and percent of black graduates at the bachelor's and doctor's levels remained about the same between 1976 and 1981. The numbers and percents of black graduates at the master's and first-professional levels declined from 1976 to 1981 in these institutions (table 7).

According to their population, how well were blacks represented among degree recipients? Blacks were greatly underrepresented among graduates of non-TBI's in both regions when compared with their approximate proportion of the eligible college-age population (chart 7). In the TBI States, blacks were still underrepresented, even when black graduates from the TBI's were included.

Chart 7.-- Black representation among degree recipients, by level, in institutions inside and outside the TBI States: 1981



Degrees by Control and Classification of Institutions

Among the non-TBI's, private institutions awarded a higher percentage of their degrees to blacks than public institutions at the bachelor's, master's, and doctor's levels (table 8). This occurred both inside and outside the TBI States, except at the bachelor's level, where in the TBI States, blacks comprised a slightly higher percentage of degree recipients in public non-TBI's (5.0 percent) than in private non-TBI's (4.9 percent) (unpublished tabulation). This may be a result, in part, of the Adams desegregation suit, which since 1970 has involved the public higher education systems in many of the TBI States.[16]

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[16]The case of Adams v. Richardson was filed by the NAACP Legal Defense Fund in 1970, claiming that the Federal government was not enforcing the 1964 Civil Rights Act in certain States with dual systems of public higher education.

Table 8.-- Blacks as a percent of degree recipients in non-TBI's in the United States, by degree level and classification of institutions: 1981

Classification* of non-TBI's	Bachelor's	Master's	Doctor's
Total	4.5	4.8	3.7
Public	4.4	4.8	3.5
Doctoral	3.6	4.0	3.5
Comprehensive	5.1	5.9	3.5
General baccalaureate	5.5	3.3	-
Specialized	5.6	4.2	1.1
Private	4.8	4.9	4.0
Doctoral	4.6	4.1	3.9
Comprehensive	5.2	6.0	3.9
General baccalaureate	4.6	6.6	-
Specialized	5.2	4.2	4.8

- Not applicable.

* Classifications of institutions were made by computing 1980-81 earned degrees data according to specified statistical criteria and a computational algorithm. Note that an institution may be classified differently than its highest degree offered. The following is a general description of classification categories.

4-year:

- Doctoral - institutions characterized by a significant level of doctoral education as measured by number of doctorate recipients and diversity in doctoral program offerings.
- Comprehensive - institutions with a diverse post-baccalaureate program, but which do not engage in significant doctoral-level education.
- General baccalaureate - institutions characterized by their primary emphasis on general undergraduate, baccalaureate education.
- Specialized - baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate institutions characterized by a programmatic emphasis in one area, such as business, theology, medicine, education, etc..

2-year: Institutions that confer at least 75 percent of their degrees for work below the baccalaureate level.

For more information on this institutional classification taxonomy, see: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, "NCES Changes Classification of Higher Education Institutions," Announcement 81-404, April 1981.

At both public and private non-TBI's, blacks comprised a smaller percent of master's degree recipients from institutions classified as doctoral than from other types of institutions (table 8). Doctoral institutions are the primary source of future faculty and researchers, and therefore play a vital role in increasing the supply of black faculty. In non-TBI's, black representation among full-time faculty was low.[17]

For More Information

For further information on aspects of this report, please contact Susan T. Hill, telephone (202) 254-6503. Additional copies of this report are available from the Statistical Information Office, National Center for Education Statistics, (Brown Building, Room 600), 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20202, telephone (202) 254-6057.

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[17] In 1979, there were about 10,000 black full-time faculty in the non-TBI's and about 8,500 black full-time faculty in the TBI's. In the non-TBI's, blacks comprised 2.4 percent of all full-time faculty; black representation among full-time faculty was almost twice as high in public non-TBI's (2.7 percent) than in private non-TBI's (1.4 percent).
Source: Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 1979; Higher Education Staff Information (EEO-6) survey; calculations by NCES.

Appendix

1. Sources of Data

2. Detailed Data on Degrees Awarded to Blacks, by Discipline: 1976, 1979, and 1981

Table A.-- Bachelor's degree awards to blacks, by discipline division: 1976, 1979, and 1981
Table B.-- Master's degree awards to blacks, by discipline division: 1976, 1979, and 1981
Table C.-- Doctor's degree awards to blacks, by discipline division: 1976, 1979, and 1981
Table D.-- First-professional degree awards to blacks, by discipline division: 1976, 1979, and 1981
Table E.-- Associate degrees and awards (based on less than 4 years of work beyond high school) to blacks, by field: 1976, 1979, and 1981

Sources of Data

Unless otherwise specified, this study used data collected by the Federal government in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Virtually all institutions of higher education are required to provide the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) enrollment and degree data by race for all their students except non-resident aliens. The years for which publications are available are:

Enrollment	Degrees
Racial and Ethnic Enrollment From Institutions of Higher Education (fall of):	Data on Earned Degrees Conferred by Institutions of Higher Education by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex (academic year):
1970	1975-1976
1972	1976-1977
1974	1978-1979
1976	1980-1981
1978	
1980	

These publications may be obtained from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 330 C St., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202. Tabulations published by OCR exclude data on U.S. Service Schools. Until the 1974 enrollment survey, aggregate data were revised by OCR in the succeeding years' publications to reflect late respondents and corrections. This study used the latest edition in which data were published.

An unknown proportion of the changes from year to year may be accounted for by nonsampling error (such as inaccurate or incomplete reporting, changes in the survey form, changes in the universe of institutions surveyed, etc.). For example, OCR collected enrollment data only from institutions in the 48 contiguous States from 1968 to 1974. Since 1975-76, enrollment and degree data have been collected by the National Center for Education Statistics as part of the Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS) from all eligible institutions in the 50 States. Reporting was more complete in the later surveys than in the earlier surveys; in 1976, race/ethnicity was not provided for approximately 4 percent of full-time undergraduates, while in 1980, this was less than 0.5 percent.

The other specified sources of data in this study derive from the Bureau of the Census Current Population Surveys (CPS), in which a sample of individuals are interviewed. The CPS samples were selected from the 1970 Census frame, and therefore the data for blacks from these surveys reflect (to an unknown extent) the undercount of the total black population in the 1970 Census, estimated by the Bureau of the Census to be 7.7 percent.

Table A.-- Bachelor's degree awards to blacks, by discipline division: 1976, 1979, and 1981*

Discipline division	1976		1979		1981	
	Blacks	Percent of total	Blacks	Percent of total	Blacks	Percent of total
Total	59,122	6.4	60,130	6.6	60,533	6.5
Agriculture and natural resources	267	1.4	346	1.5	380	1.7
Architecture and environmental design	258	2.8	316	3.4	300	3.2
Area studies	106	3.5	84	3.3	67	2.6
Biological sciences	2,326	4.3	2,487	5.1	2,266	5.2
Business and management	9,489	6.7	11,430	6.6	13,388	6.7
Communications	1,275	6.0	1,998	7.6	2,405	7.7
Computer and information sciences	323	5.8	505	5.8	784	5.2
Education	14,209	9.2	11,509	9.1	9,494	8.8
Engineering	1,370	3.0	1,756	2.9	2,432	3.3
Fine and applied arts	1,724	4.1	1,880	4.6	1,835	4.6
Foreign languages	531	3.5	349	3.0	293	2.8
Health professions	2,741	5.1	3,380	5.4	3,603	5.7
Home economics	1,069	6.2	1,195	6.5	1,125	6.1
Law	27	5.2	53	7.9	22	2.8
Letters	2,458	4.8	2,192	5.2	1,980	4.9
Library science	75	9.3	49	8.8	30	8.0
Mathematics	799	5.1	652	5.6	582	5.3
Military sciences	4	2.2	2	1.4	4	2.7
Physical sciences	647	3.0	691	3.0	886	3.8
Psychology	3,219	6.5	3,214	7.6	3,303	8.1
Public affairs and services	3,306	10.0	4,495	11.8	4,869	13.4
Social sciences	10,978	8.7	9,038	8.4	8,108	8.1
Theology	148	2.8	156	2.6	166	2.9
Interdisciplinary studies	1,773	5.6	2,353	7.3	2,211	6.6

* Refers to academic years 1975-76, 1978-79, and 1980-81.
Note: Data for U.S. Service Schools are excluded.

Table B.-- Master's degree awards to blacks, by discipline division: 1976, 1979, and 1981*

Discipline division	1976		1979		1981	
	Blacks	Percent of total	Blacks	Percent of total	Blacks	Percent of total
Total	20,345	6.6	19,393	6.5	17,133	5.8
Agriculture and natural resources	77	2.3	79	2.0	73	1.8
Architecture and environmental design	195	6.1	115	3.7	122	3.9
Area studies	26	2.9	15	2.0	14	1.9
Biological sciences	215	3.3	217	3.2	171	2.9
Business and management	1,549	3.7	2,129	4.3	2,359	4.1
Communications	170	5.5	149	5.2	187	6.0
Computer and information sciences	60	2.4	65	2.2	70	1.7
Education	12,434	9.7	10,825	9.7	8,645	8.8
Engineering	233	1.5	241	1.6	260	1.6
Fine and applied arts	277	3.2	254	3.0	267	3.1
Foreign languages	119	3.4	45	1.9	33	1.6
Health professions	622	5.0	801	5.2	889	5.4
Home economics	104	4.9	121	4.8	132	5.1
Law	37	2.6	27	1.6	38	2.1
Letters	455	4.1	327	3.7	250	3.0
Library science	426	5.4	305	5.2	216	4.4
Mathematics	130	3.4	71	2.3	67	2.6
Military sciences	0	0	0	0	0	0
Physical sciences	137	2.5	86	1.6	107	2.0
Psychology	416	5.3	476	6.0	424	5.3
Public affairs and services	1,615	9.5	2,039	10.2	1,893	9.4
Social sciences	883	5.6	748	5.8	615	5.2
Theology	55	1.9	72	2.1	71	1.9
Interdisciplinary studies	110	3.0	186	4.1	230	5.1

* Refers to academic years 1975-76, 1978-79, and 1980-81.

Table C.-- Doctor's degree awards to blacks, by discipline division: 1976, 1979, and 1981*

Discipline division	1976		1979		1981	
	Blacks	Percent of total	Blacks	Percent of total	Blacks	Percent of total
Total	1,213	3.6	1,267	3.9	1,265	3.9
Agriculture and natural resources	18	2.0	14	1.5	15	1.4
Architecture and environmental design	5	6.1	5	5.2	6	6.5
Area studies	9	5.1	12	9.0	6	3.8
Biological sciences	52	1.5	47	1.3	64	1.7
Business and management	17	1.8	18	2.1	32	3.8
Communications	8	3.8	10	5.2	10	5.5
Computer and information sciences	0	0	4	1.7	1	.4
Education	669	8.6	625	8.1	614	7.8
Engineering	19	.7	24	1.0	24	.9
Fine and applied arts	21	3.3	12	1.7	17	2.6
Foreign languages	8	.9	10	1.6	9	1.5
Health professions	16	2.8	20	2.8	26	3.1
Home economics	5	2.8	9	4.1	9	3.6
Law	0	0	2	4.3	1	1.7
Letters	63	2.6	71	3.7	56	3.1
Library science	4	5.6	2	2.9	9	12.7
Mathematics	9	1.1	13	1.8	9	1.2
Military sciences	0	0	0	0	0	0
Physical sciences	41	1.2	48	1.5	32	1.0
Psychology	66	2.6	111	4.2	116	3.9
Public affairs and services	29	9.1	31	8.4	52	12.0
Social sciences	117	2.8	132	3.9	100	3.9
Theology	26	2.9	32	2.7	45	3.8
Interdisciplinary studies	11	4.2	15	2.1	12	4.3

* Refers to academic years 1975-76, 1978-79, and 1980-81.

Table D.-- First-professional degree awards to blacks, by discipline division: 1976, 1979, and 1981*

Discipline division	1976		1979		1981	
	Blacks	Percent of total	Blacks	Percent of total	Blacks	Percent of total
Total	2,694	4.3	2,836	4.1	2,929	4.1
Dentistry	181	3.3	180	3.3	195	3.6
Medicine	708	5.3	762	5.2	767	5.0
Optometry	14	1.4	12	1.1	9	.8
Osteopathic medicine	12	1.5	18	1.7	16	1.4
Pharmacy	6	1.4	16	2.5	20	3.0
Podiatry	3	.7	15	2.6	20	3.4
Veterinary medicine	18	1.2	37	2.2	37	1.9
Chiropractic medicine	26	1.6	7	.4	13	.6
Law, general	1,519	4.7	1,500	4.3	1,576	4.3
Theological professions	206	3.9	289	4.5	276	4.4
Other	1	3.3	0	0	0	0

* Refers to academic years 1975-76, 1978-79, and 1980-81.
Note: Data for U.S. Service Schools are excluded.

Table E.-- Associate degrees and awards (based on less than 4 years of work beyond high school) to blacks, by field: 1976, 1979, and 1981*

Field	1976		1979		1981	
	Blacks	Percent of total	Blacks	Percent of total	Blacks	Percent of total
Total	40,925	8.4	45,735	9.1	48,038	9.2
Arts and science or general programs	14,422	8.0	14,493	9.0	13,560	8.5
Occupational, total	26,503	8.6	31,242	9.2	34,478	9.5
Business and commerce technologies	9,068	9.6	12,148	10.7	13,482	11.1
Data processing technologies	857	10.4	1,333	11.7	1,983	10.7
Health services and paramedical technologies	6,936	8.4	6,696	7.6	6,545	7.6
Mechanical and engineering technologies	4,955	7.9	5,488	7.9	7,049	8.2
Natural science technologies	710	3.7	937	4.8	998	5.1
Public service-related technologies	3,977	9.9	4,640	12.5	4,421	13.6

* Refers to academic years 1975-76, 1978-79, and 1980-81.